



Public Hearing – March 7, 2023  
Energy and Technology Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Katie S. Dykes

**House Bill No [6851](#)– An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Hydrogen Task Force**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding House Bill No. 6851 – An Act Implementing Recommendations of the Hydrogen Task Force. The purpose of this bill is to help the state support the development of a green hydrogen economy within Connecticut. Hydrogen has the potential to be a key resource in building our economy in a decarbonized future.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) are pleased to share joint feedback on this proposal, including some recommended clarifications and a concern with the bill with regard to the source and use of funding.

DEEP welcomes the opportunity to develop a roadmap for the development of a clean hydrogen economy. DEEP has begun this process as part of the Comprehensive Energy Strategy. DEEP expects to issue a white paper on clean hydrogen in March or early April. In drafting the white paper, DEEP held a public technical conference and participated in the Hydrogen Task Force led by the Green Bank. In the white paper, DEEP makes a straw proposal for a definition of clean energy. DEEP will be seeking public feedback on the proposal. That definition would be the starting point for drafting a regulatory definition of clean hydrogen.

Following the release of the Hydrogen White Paper, DEEP plans on drafting a Hydrogen Road Map. The Hydrogen Road Map is expected to prioritize the application of clean hydrogen for end uses and sectors within the state that are the most difficult to transition to being operated using electricity, and will identify the economic and policy tradeoffs of using hydrogen over alternatives.

DEEP has two small areas of concern with the bill language and would be glad to work with the Committee to make sure the goals of the Committee are achieved. First, DEEP asks the Committee to consider a project threshold in the definition of “clean hydrogen project” that is commensurate with the two megawatt project limitation in the definition of “renewable energy project.” Second, DEEP and DECD would like to make sure DECD has some discretion on which projects receive funding, and how much match funding is provided to ensure economic viability and appropriate return on investment to the state, if projects win federal funding awards.

Furthermore, DECD has additional concerns with Section 3 of the bill, which would require DECD to provide DEEP a grant of up to \$20 million to match any federal requirements should DEEP accept a federal award for a clean energy project. First, DECD does not have the existing resources to provide this funding, and this funding was not included in the Governor's recommended budget. Additional resources would need to be included in the upcoming budget for DECD to administer this grant to DEEP, a concern that DEEP shares. Moreover, pursuant to Public Act 23-1, DECD is already committed to providing the University of Connecticut \$20 million in match funding, should it be awarded U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program. Lastly, DECD would recommend not including a dollar amount (i.e., \$20 million) in the legislation, as it may deter additional private or philanthropic investment if stakeholders know a certain amount of state funding is available.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Harrison Nantz at [Harrison.Nantz@ct.gov](mailto:Harrison.Nantz@ct.gov) or Kyle Abercrombie at [Kyle.Abercrombie@ct.gov](mailto:Kyle.Abercrombie@ct.gov).

